

DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION

I, Hooman A. Asbaghi, declare: that I am a citizen of the United States of America; that my residence and post office address is 1114 Highland Drive, Del Mar, California 92014; that I verily believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter of the invention or discovery entitled SELF-SHEATHING DENTAL NEEDLE, for which a patent is sought and which is described and claimed in the specification attached hereto; that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims; and that I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Section 1.56(a) of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

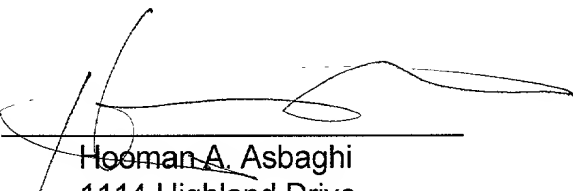
I hereby appoint as my attorneys NEIL K. NYDEGGER, Registration No. 30,202, and MATTHEW K. HILLMAN, Registration No. 45,892, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. All correspondence and telephonic communications should be directed to:

NEIL K. NYDEGGER  
NYDEGGER & ASSOCIATES  
348 Olive Street  
San Diego, California 92103  
(619) 688-1300

Wherefore, I pray that a letters patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, declaration, power of attorney, and this petition.

Signed at San Diego, California, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2001.

Inventor



Hooman A. Asbaghi  
1114 Highland Drive  
Del Mar, CA 92014

declpoapet:ddb  
Docket: 11311.1

DECLARATION CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVENTOR

I, Hooman A. Asbaghi, hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention entitled SELF-SHEATHING DENTAL NEEDLE, as described in the patent application filed concurrently herewith.

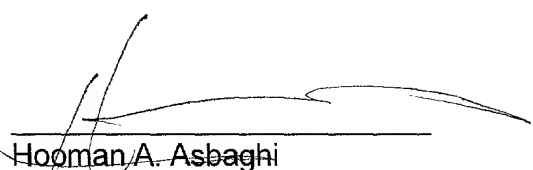
I further declare that I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any right, title, or interest in the invention to any person, firm, or organization.

I acknowledge the duty to file, in the above-mentioned application or any patent issued in respect thereof, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of (1) the issue fee or (2) any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate.

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity

of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this declaration is directed.

Signed at San Diego, California, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2001.



Hooman A. Asbaghi  
1114 Highland Drive  
Del Mar, CA 92014

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